

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



374736

**DATE:** August 22, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on August 15, 2003

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, Buckeye Pipeline Oil Spill, Peoria County, Illinois**

On August 13, 2003, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Mike Ribordy responded to an oil spill located 5 miles west of Chillicothe, Peoria County, Illinois. Approximately 400 barrels of high sulfur diesel fuel was released from an 8-inch pipeline owned by Buckeye Pipeline. The spill was reported to the National Response Center by Buckeye Pipeline. During the previous week, a 17-mile segment of the pipeline had been evacuated for maintenance. The break occurred at an acetylene weld near a segment of the pipeline that had just been replaced. The release was discovered several hours after Buckeye began refilling the pipeline. The fuel traveled down a dry ravine which emptied into a small private pond. Most of the fuel was contained within the pond except for a small quantity which continued several hundred feet further down the ravine. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) mobilized the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractor to assess the release and document response activities. Buckeye Pipeline activated their emergency response team to begin assessment and cleanup activities. These initial response activities included removing the surficial oil with absorbent pads, creating a collection sump in the ground to prevent further migration of the

fuel, and mobilization of vacuum trucks to collect fuel from the pond and sump. Neither the community nor any significant water body were threatened by the release. Buckeye Pipeline will

continue to perform cleanup activities in the area with continued oversight by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. EPA.

Contact: Mike Ribordy (312-886-4592)

**RI/FS Work Plan Approved (Barrel Fill Operable Unit), Tremont City Landfill AKA North Sanitary Landfill Site, Tremont City, Ohio**

On July 18, 2003, the Region 5 Superfund Division approved the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan for the Barrel Fill Operable Unit (BFOU) at the Tremont City Landfill Site in Tremont City, Ohio. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs) expect to mobilize for the RI field work at the end of August 2003.

The community and other entities have been concerned for some time about whether U.S. EPA will expeditiously remediate the BFOU and the site in general. Therefore, the start of RI field work at the BFOU will reinforce to the community and other entities U.S. EPA's commitment to remediate the site.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

**Meeting (Basewide Contamination Report), U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Site, Madison, Indiana,**

On July 29, 2003, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Karen Mason-Smith attended a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting in Madison, Indiana, where the Army's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Coordinator stated that a new Army study of whether soil, sediments, and water at Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) are contaminated is expected to be made public by the end of August 2003. This new study is a Basewide Contamination Report consisting of areas both north and south of the firing line at the 55,000 acre site.

An office of the Army that is involved in health and prevention (U.S. Army CHPPM) conducted the study at JPG and other Army bases nationwide where unexploded ordnance (UXO), depleted uranium (DU), and perchlorate were used. Some of the specific

contaminants that the study looked for include metals, explosives, DU, and evidence of perchlorate, a chemical that is gaining increasing national attention because it causes thyroid malfunction which can result in developmental problems and learning disabilities in children and a host of adult problems, including depression, anxiety, and weight gain. Perchlorate is a

main ingredient of rocket and missile fuel, pyrotechnics (fireworks), and explosive ordnance (e.g., munitions, bombs, etc.).

Contact: Karen Mason-Smith (312-886-6150)

**Meeting, St. Louis River Superfund Site, Duluth, Minnesota**

On August 11-12, 2003, Jon Peterson (Superfund) and Scott Cieniawski of the Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) attended a meeting on the Interlake/Duluth Tar portion of the St. Louis River Superfund site in Duluth, Minnesota. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) had meetings with local residents, potentially responsible parties (PRPs), landowners, local industries, the City of Duluth Planning Department, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for the last couple of years. The MPCA's goal is to assemble a preferred remedy that is amenable to all of the stakeholders. The alternative MPCA presented at the meeting included dredging and re-capping, capping and "surcharging" or overbuilding a cap to accelerate subsidence, and then re-dredging to maintain depth. This alternative also allows for future navigational dredging for the relocating, operating boat dock business, and construction of a confined aquatic disposal facility to store contaminated sediments. The cleanup threshold of 14 parts per million total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) is being used to define the sediments to be remediated at a cost of up to \$30 million.

The MPCA has included GLNPO in their previous meetings because they are exploring the possibility of seeking funds available from the Legacy Act to help pay for part of the cleanup of contaminated sediments in the boat slips and in Stryker Bay. The MPCA has invited the Region 5 Superfund program to their latest stakeholder meetings in an effort to obtain a Letter of Support (not a concurrence) on their expedited Record of Decision (ROD).

Contact: Jon Peterson (312-353-1264)

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## TRAINING/CONFERENCES

### Unannounced Drills, Wayne County, Michigan

On August 13-14, 2003, Sheila Calovich, Ann Whelan, Karen Vendl, Chris Christenson, Shitien Yang (Oil Planning & Response Section) and Troy Swackhammer from U.S. EPA Oil Center conducted unannounced drills and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) inspections at two facilities in Wayne County, Michigan. The two facilities were Exxon Mobil Woodhaven Terminal in Trenton, Michigan, and Buckeye Pipeline Taylor Terminal in Taylor, Michigan. These two facilities completed the exercises but will have to make changes to their Facility Response Plans (FRP). There were also some SPCC issues that were identified. The facilities will be notified in writing of U.S. EPA's findings.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

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